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~~SECRET NOFORN DISSEM~~

IB - 192/64  
29 April 1964  
Copy 1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Resources Division, ORR

25X1A

ATTENTION : [REDACTED]  
THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS  
FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)  
SUBJECT : Thai Nguyen Steel Plant, North Vietnam  
REFERENCES : (1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR4-81,180  
(2) CIA/PID Project No. C 513-64

1. This memorandum is in response to the referenced requirement which asks for the status of construction at various components at the subject plant, evidence of ore dressing, coking coal processing, and for annotated photo enlargements.

25X1D

2. Mission [REDACTED] provided excellent quality coverage of the Thai Nguyen Steel Plant. Four annotated enlargements have been prepared from this mission (see CIA/PID/IB-P-641/64 through P-644/64).

3. The overall plant is in mid-stage of construction. The only major component which is in operation is one blast furnace. Refer to CIA/PID/IB-P-641/64 for the following letter annotations.

The byproducts coke plant (Annotation B) appears to be nearing completion. The by-products section still has some pipe connections to be completed and a few pieces of equipment to be installed. The two coke oven batteries are still covered by temporary roofs which indicates that they have not been finished. No smoke, steam or fumes are visible anywhere in this area.

25X1D

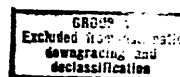
The plant as it appears on coverage of [REDACTED] will have three blast furnaces. One is in operation, the second is nearing completion and the third is in an early stage of construction.

What appears to be a sintering plant (Annotation C) is nearing completion. Some conveyors still need to be added, the most obvious of these is the one which will carry ore to the stock trestle. The pumphouse, water treatment and water storage facilities are complete (Annotation A).

DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW BY NIMA / DoD

8-12516

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SUBJECT: Thai Nguyen Steel Plant, North Vietnam

In the steel and rolling section (Annotation G-1 and G-2) some buildings are complete; however, the specific building where steel is produced can not be identified. It is felt that the section Annotation G-2 may possibly be where steel will be produced. The building with three stacks is too low and too narrow to be an open hearth furnace building; however, it may possibly be a mill building. The exact function of buildings a, b, c, and d can not be determined at the present time but it is felt that they may possibly have something to do with steel production. It appears strange that buildings in section G-2 are not rail-served; however, rail lines undoubtedly will be added at a later date.

Section F, an area of construction activity, cannot be identified because of the early stage of construction. One of the buildings under construction may possibly be a second power plant. It may be possible that rolling and finishing mills will occupy this section or even that a converter shop may be constructed.

To the west of the plant proper there is a large area devoted primarily to storage (see CIA/FID/IB-P-642/64). There are at least 10 warehouses completed, numerous other warehouses under construction, open storage areas and a rail yard.

The movement of materials within this plant appears to be very awkward. Ore passes by the plant and must be switched back through the plant to the probable sintering unit. At present there is no direct tie between the blast furnaces and other parts of the plant. Pig iron will have to be switched around no matter where the steel is to be produced.

4. The iron ore is mined approximately 5 nautical miles ~~ENE~~ of the steel plant. Mining activities have not been in progress long. Strip mining is confined to one side of the ore body (see CIA/FID/IB-P-644/64) where three power shovels are present. Test boreings show the extent of the ore body. The ore is delivered by small mine cars to the concentration plant where waste is removed and the percent of iron content is increased to proper smelting levels. The concentrated ore is then sent to the steel plant by rail. The coal mining area and coal processing facilities were not observed.

5. The photo analyst assigned to this project was [REDACTED] who may be contacted on extension 2547 should you have further questions concerning this project. This requirement is considered complete.

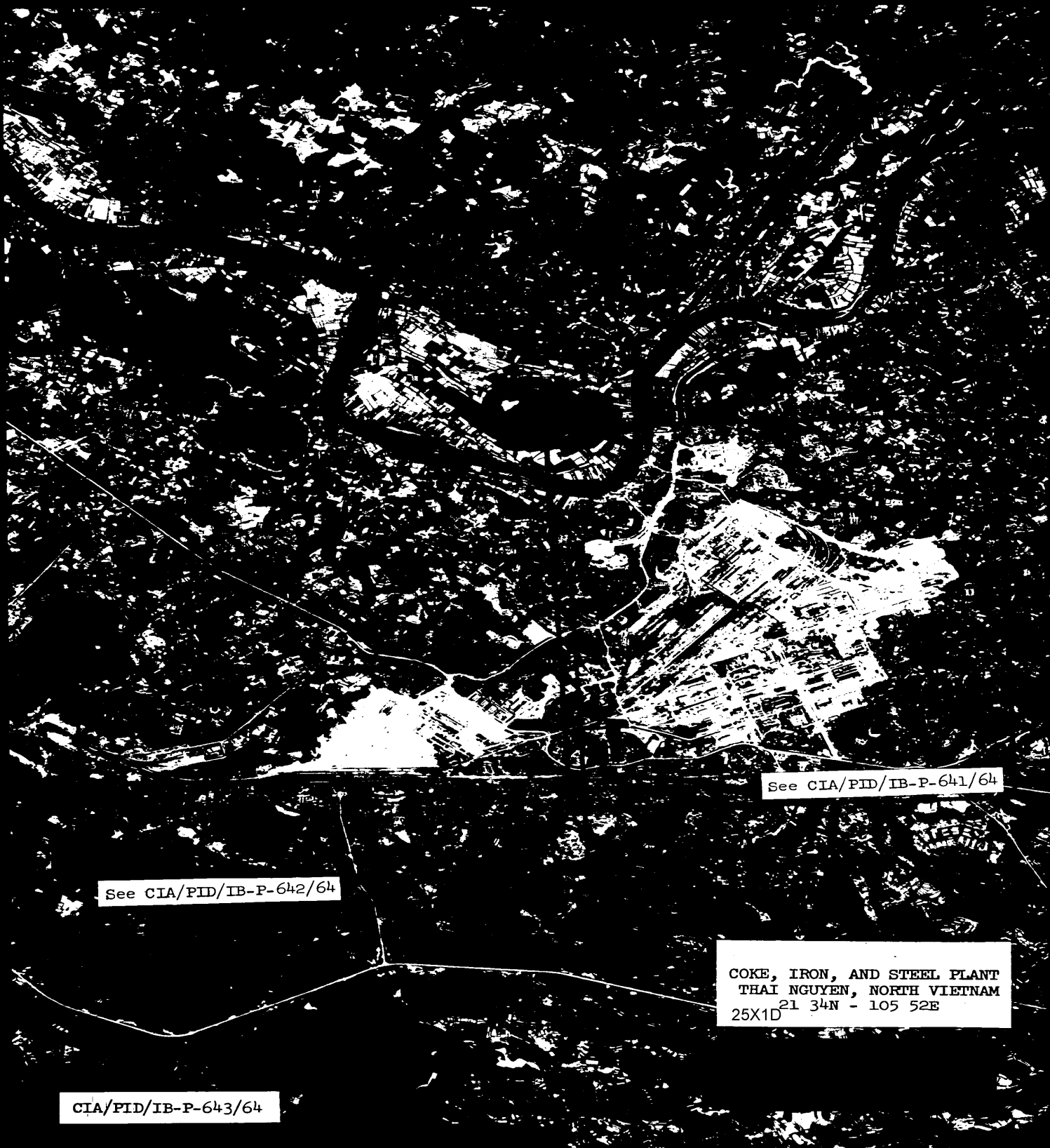
25X1A

### ENCLOSURES:

3 Annotated Photo Enlargements  
(CIA/FID/IB-P-641/64 thru P-644/64)

25X1A

SECRET NOFORN DISSEM



See CIA/PID/IB-P-641/64

See CIA/PID/IB-P-642/64

COKE, IRON, AND STEEL PLANT  
THAI NGUYEN, NORTH VIETNAM  
21 34N - 105 52E  
25X1D

CIA/PID/IB-P-643/64

PUMP HOUSE

WATER TREATMENT

WATER TANK

BLAST FURNACES

STOCK TRESSULE

COKE OVENS U/C

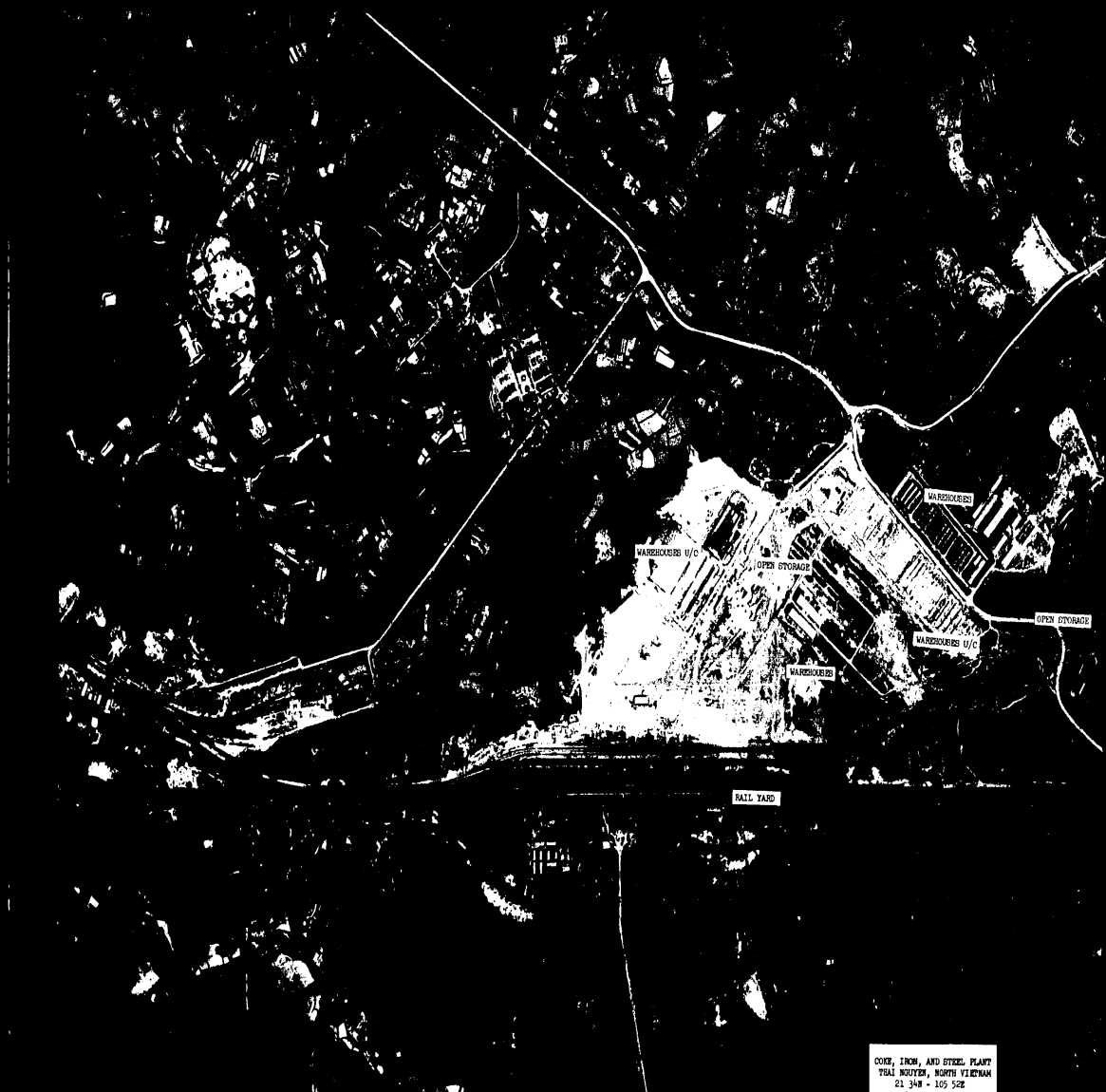
F

POSSIBLE POWER PLANT

- 25X1D
- LEGEND
- A - WATER TREATMENT AND STORAGE
  - B - BY-PRODUCTS COKE PLANT
  - C - PROBABLE SINTER PLANT
  - D - BLAST FURNACES AND STORAGE
  - E - POWER PLANT
  - F - AREA UNDER CONSTRUCTION
  - G1 & G2 - STEEL AND ROLLING
  - H - RAIL CAR REPAIR
  - I - ADMINISTRATION
  - J - CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

COKE, IRON, AND STEEL PLANT  
THAI NGUYEN, NORTH VIETNAM  
21 348 - 105 52E

CLA/PID/IB-R-641/64



COKE, IRON, AND STEEL PLANT  
THAI NGUYEN, NORTH VIETNAM  
21 348 - 105 528



IRON ORE MINE AND CONCENTRATION PLANT  
NORTH VIETNAM  
21 37N - 105 50E